

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration**

**Headquarters**

Washington, DC 20546-0001



March 18, 2010

Reply to Attn of:

Office of the Chief Engineer

TO: Officials-in-Charge of Headquarters Offices  
Directors, NASA Centers

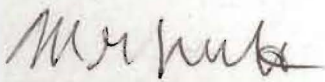
FROM: Chief Engineer  
Chief, Safety and Mission Assurance  
Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: Call for Nominations for the 17th Annual NASA Software of the Year Award

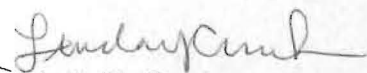
As sponsors for the 17th Annual NASA Software of the Year Award, we are pleased to announce the call for nominations. This prestigious award is designed to give recognition to developers of exceptional software created for or by NASA and owned by NASA. Every NASA Center and Facility is cordially invited to participate in this competition. The award includes the NASA Software Medal, Inventions and Contributions Board certificate(s), and monetary compensation.

The NASA Inventions and Contributions Board (ICB) website (<http://nen.nasa.gov/portal/site/llis/OCE/ICB/>) contains information about the yearly competitions. The enclosure contains eligibility information and describes the selection process. Nomination packages are due to the Inventions and Contributions Board Staff by close of business June 14, 2010. The competition will be held at NASA Ames the week of July 26, 2010.

Excellence in software is vital to the Agency's leadership role in developing aeronautics and space technologies and transferring them to government and industry. The Software of the Year Award competition allows us to recognize and appreciate the NASA team members that set high standards for significant software that is creative, usable, transferable, and possesses inherent quality. Please join us in fully supporting this year's competition.

  
Michael G. Ryschkewitsch

  
Bryan O'Connor

  
Linda Y. Cureton

Enclosure

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MSFC/Ms. Wang

## **Eligibility**

NASA is looking for innovative **software** itself, rather than projects or products that use routine software. Software techniques, methods, languages, and functions are advancing and the applications of these advancements are allowing NASA to do more than it could ever have done before. The NASA Software of the Year (SOY) Award is about finding and rewarding these advances. It is important that the software not only be technologically advanced and of high quality, but can also demonstrate that safety and reliability have been applied where needed to make the software product(s) robust and safe to operate per relative NASA standards and directives available at <http://standards.nasa.gov/> and [http://nodis3.gsfc.nasa.gov/main\\_lib.cfm](http://nodis3.gsfc.nasa.gov/main_lib.cfm) respectively. The competition is open to author(s) of outstanding scientific and technical software which has:

- (1) been officially released by the project within the last 3 years. Note: Software may only be considered officially released after all experimental phases have been successfully completed to the satisfaction of the customer;
- (2) a current Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 7 or higher;
- (3) a NASA intellectual property interest;
- (4) been supported, adopted, sponsored, or used by NASA;
- (5) made a significant scientific or technical contribution to the NASA mission;
- (6) a report from the local NASA Safety and Mission Assurance organization's software assurance personnel which provides information on the candidate's software (including its software classification as defined by NPR 7150.2A, Appendix E and its safety criticality based on the Software Assurance Assessment as described in Appendix A of NASA-STD-8739.8), its release status, and the processes followed for its development and acceptance (e.g., compliance matrix against applicable Center or Agency software requirements; see Appendix D in NPR 7150.2A). If classified as safety critical, then using the compliance matrix in NASA-STD 8719.13 Appendix B, section 6. ;
- (7) demonstrated compliance with NASA security procedures per NASA Policy Directive 2810, NASA Information Security Policy; and
- (8) demonstrated compliance to Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended 29 U.S.C. § 794 (d).

NASA Centers, NASA Facilities (e.g., Independent Verification and Validation Facility, Wallops Flight Facility, White Sands Test Facility, Plum Brook Station, etc.), major contractors, supporting universities, and small businesses may participate.

**Entries**

Each individual entry must be submitted electronically (either by e-mail, Website access, ftp site access, or on compact disk, DVD, superdisk, or zip drive) using NASA Form 1329, ICB Award Evaluation Questionnaire, and the NASA SOY Summary Evaluation Document. NASA Form 1329 Part II must also be submitted through the Awards Liaison Officer, in hard copy or scanned, which shows the signatures of the official NASA technical management reviewers. Copies of the software, sample applications and data, and descriptive documentation of the package may be provided, but only electronically. The entry must be supplemented by evidence (letters from software users submitted electronically) demonstrating the software's impact, degree of innovation, and suitability. All files must be named with the case number and the document name specified above. This information will be the primary data used by the ICB in recommending awards and will be electronically submitted to the judges.

NASA Centers will collect and evaluate entries from their associated activities.

Each NASA Center may select and submit a nominee. Component NASA Facilities may submit one additional nominee if the entry was initiated by a Facility under its cognizance (e.g. GSFC could submit 1 entry for GSFC Greenbelt and another from Wallops and/or the IV&V Facility).

**Deadlines**

Each NASA Center will forward its top selection(s) to the ICB by COB June 14, 2010.

**Judging**

Entries will be judged by a NASA Software Award Review Panel comprised of software development experts from each NASA Center and a NASA Facility, if it has a nominee. Each Center will have the opportunity to make a short presentation on their nominated package at the judging location or via recorded video, videoconference, or teleconference.

After their review, the Panelists will submit a ranking of the nominations to the ICB and the competition sponsors.

The ICB will then recommend monetary award amounts for the cases to the competition sponsors for confirmation by the Administrator, under the auspices of the Space Act of 1958, as amended.

NASA officials will present the award later in the year. Additional inquiries on award criteria should be made through the NASA Space Act Awards Liaison Officer at any NASA Center or through the ICB (<http://icb.nasa.gov/alos.html>).